

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.102(b) as being anticipated by Ujiie, et al. U.S. Patent 5,781,352. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to identify the adhesive agent as a feature of the claim. The adhesive agent is provided between the weight part and the lens holder so as to bond the weight part to the lens holder in such manner that the adhesive agent and the weight part vibrate together to minimize vibration of the lens holder.

Ujiie does not disclose or suggest an adhesive agent provided between the weight part and the lens holder so as to bond the weight part to the lens holder. That is, Ujiie fails to disclose or suggest that the adhesive agent and the weight part vibrate together to cancel the vibration of the lens holder. On the other hand, according to the present invention, Fig. 1 of this application clearly shows that the adhesive agent 50 is provided between the weight 48 and the lens holder 14 (the concave part 14d).

For all of the above reasons Claim 1 is clearly patentable over Ujiie '352, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C.102(b) should be withdrawn. Claims 2, 3 and 5 depend from Claim 1 and accordingly are believed patentable for the same reasons as given above.

The rejection of Claims 12-18 under 35 U.S.C.102(b) as being anticipated by Murakami U.S. Patent 5,050,963 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12 and 18 have been amended to specify the adhesive agent as being provided between the weight part and the lens holder so as to bond the weight part to the lens holder. In addition the adhesive agent is limited to a viscoelasticity such that the weight part serves as a dynamic vibration absorber.

Murakami merely shows that "adhesive 14a, 14b, 14c, 14d is fully applied to each of the grooves 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d." and that "the peripheral wall of the objective lens 11, each of the grooves 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d and the upper surface of the support member 13 are fastened with the adhesive" (column 3, lines 62-67). Thus, Murakami fails to disclose or suggest that an adhesive agent is provided between the weight part and the lens holder so as to fix the weight part to the lens holder. That is, Murakami fails to disclose or suggest that the adhesive agent and the weight part vibrate together to cancel the vibration of the lens holder. According to the above-described configuration of Murakami, the ring member 12, which the Examiner equates with the weight part of the present invention, does not function as a dynamic vibration absorber. On the other hand, according to the present invention, Fig. 1 of this application clearly shows that the adhesive agent 50 is provided between the weight 48 and the lens holder 14 (the concave part 14d).

For all of the above reasons Claims 12-18 are clearly patentable over Murakami '963 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C.102(b) should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Ujiie, et al. in view of Miyamae, et al. '133 is respectfully traversed.

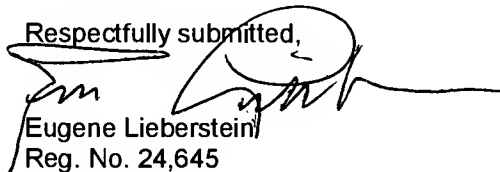
Claims 4 and 6-7 are dependant claims which depend from independent Claim 1 and are therefore belief patentable for the same reasons as given heretofore in connection with the patentability of Claim 1.

New Claims 19-22 correspond to original Claims 8-11 which have been cancelled. For each of the Claims 19-22 read in independent form and include all the limitations of the base claims of the corresponding Claims 8-11. Accordingly, Claims 19-22 are believed allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Claims 1-7, 12-18 and 19-22 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The examiner is respectfully requested to return to applicant a copy of the IDS which applicant filed with the patent office on November 28, 2001, initialed by the Examiner. Applicant has noticed that the IDS does not include the initials of the examiner. This is requested to make sure that the IDS filed on November 28, 2001 has been entered and the references will be made of record.

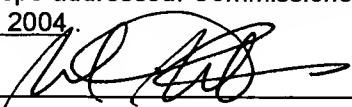
Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-7, 12-18 and 19-22 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 9, 2004.

Signed: 

Dated: Dec. 9, 2004